Widening of National Highwaye

2839. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a stretch of 6,674 km. out of total 34.000 km. of country's National Highways is narrow, as a result of which the number of road accidents is rapidly increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government consider it necessary to widen the narrow National Highways; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to widen these narrow National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Out of total length of 34298 km. of National Highways in the country at present, about 6935 km. length is having either single lane 03.75 m. width) or intimidate lane (5.5 m. wide) carriageway. However, it may be mentioned that road accidents are not dependent on lane width alone but on a large number of other factors.

(b) and (c). The widening of National Highways is taken up in a phased manner depending upon the availability of resources.

[English]

Bridge on N.H.47

2840. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to replace the old Bridge with a new, across the Kuzhithurai River on the Trivandrum Kanyakumari National Highway (N.H.47)?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) . The construction of new bridge across Kuzhithurai river at Km.604/4 of N.H.-47 has been included in the Annual Plan 1996-97. Land acquisition work for construction of the bridge has been completed in April. 1996 The proposal/estimate is yet to be received from the State Government.

[Translation]

Condition of N.Hs.

2841 SHRI R.L.P VERMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for dilapidating conditions of the National Highways in the country;

(b) the provisions made by Government in the Eighth Five Year Plan for the purpose;

(c) whether the funds made available have been spent thereon;

(d) if so, the reasons for dilapidating conditions of National Highways;

(e) whether the Government conduct inspect of the work and correctness of the schemes through Governmental or any other agency; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T G, VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). Even though the inadequacy of resources has affected the proper upkeep of National Highways, all efforts are being made to keep them in traffic worthy condition within the available resources An amount of Rs. 2318.74 crore has been released for development of National Highways during the first 4 years of the 8th Five Year Plan.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. State Govei ıment acting as the agents of Central Government, carry out all developmental and maintenance works on National Highways.

Health Guide

2842. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme is being implemented by Government to appoint Health Guide in the rural area in the country for every 1000 persons;

(b) whether the Health Guide are still being paid a salary of Rs.50 which was fixed 30 years ago whereas salary of employees in all other departments has been increasing during this period;

(c) whether any steps being taken to increases the salary of these Health Guides in view of the long period of service rendered by them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a).Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). Health guide is a volunteer chosen by the village community to serve the people in his spare-time for which is paid an honorarium of Rs.50/- per month. At present there is no proposal to increase the honorarium of these health Guides.